

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PDIP, PFOR, PGOV, LI

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR CARTER'S REMARKS AT CREDENTIALS
CEREMONY

REF: MONROVIA 2689

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE REMARKS I INTEND TO DELIVER WHEN I
PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT. SHOULD YOU HAVE
ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ABOUT THESE ADVISE ASAP OR SHOULD THEY
SEEM TO SATISFY EMBASSY CONCERNS YOU MAY SUBMIT THEM TO
GOL.

2. QUOTE. MR. PRESIDENT, PERMIT ME TO PERFORM THE VERY
PLEASANT DUTY OF CONVEYING TO YOU THE GOOD WISHES OF YOUR
FRIEND, GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
FORD JUST TWO DAYS AGO TO DISCUSS LIBERIAN-AMERICAN RELA-
TIONS, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONTINUED
INTEREST IN MAINTAINING THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH
EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE ALSO INSTRUCTED ME TO
RENEW TO YOU THE ASSURANCES OF HIS HIGH ESTEEM AND STEAD-
FAST FRIENDSHIP.

3. QUOTE. I DO NOT BEAR LIGHTLY THE CONFIDENCE REPOSED IN
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ME BY PRESIDENT FORD TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES IN

LIBERIA. OUR RELATIONSHIP--AS YOU KNOW SO WELL--EXTENDS BACK OVER ONE AND A HALF CENTURIES TO THE VERY FOUNDING OF LIBERIA IN 1822. THROUGH THE YEARS US-LIBERIAN RELATIONS HAVE CONTINUED TO GROW AND DEVELOP--AS ALLIES IN TWO WORLD WARS AND AS PARTNERS IN PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS. THE US HAS LONG MAINTAINED HERE ONE OF ITS MOST ACTIVE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN AFRICA, AND I EXPECT OUR PROGRAM HERE TO CONTINUE, IF NOT INCREASE, IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

4. QUOTE. NEXT WEEK, IN A CONTINUED DEMONSTRATION OF THE CLOSENESS OF US-LIBERIAN RELATIONS, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER WILL BE VISITING LIBERIA AS PART OF HIS TOUR OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. THE SECRETARY HAS LONG PLANNED AN AFRICAN TRIP, AND IT GOES ALMOST WITHOUT SAYING THAT ANY TRIP TO THIS CONTINENT MUST INCLUDE A CALL IN MONROVIA.

5. QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD AFRICA WAS CLEARLY LAID OUT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER ON MARCH 16 OF THIS YEAR BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. OUR POLICY IS TO BE GUIDED BY FOUR MAJOR PRINCIPLES AND CONCERNS. THEY ARE:

A. WE WANT TO SEE AFRICA ATTAIN PROSPERITY FOR ITS PEOPLE AND BECOME A MAJOR PARTICIPANT IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

B. WE SUPPORT THE DESIRE OF AFRICAN NATIONS TO CHART THEIR OWN COURSE IN DOMESTIC, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS--TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN SOCIAL SYSTEM AND A NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY.

C. WE WANT TO SEE SELF-DETERMINATION, RACIAL JUSTICE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS SPREAD THROUGHOUT AFRICA.

D. WE WANT TO SEE THE AFRICAN CONTINENT FREE OF GREAT POWER RIVALRY. WE HAVE OUR OWN INTEREST IN SEEING THAT LOCAL CONFLICTS HERE IN AFRICA NOT BE EXPLOITED AND EXACERBATED BY OUTSIDE FORCES INTERVENING FOR UNILATERAL

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ADVANTAGE.

5. QUOTE. US POLICY TOWARD LIBERIA IS PREDICATED ON THESE FOUR BASIC GUIDELINES. WE ENCOURAGE LIBERIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EXPANDED TRADE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HER NATURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES. WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO DOMINATE LIBERIA. WE WISH TO BE RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS.

6. QUOTE. OVER 25 MILLION AMERICANS TRACE THEIR ORIGIN TO THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, AND MANY US CITIZENS CAN CLAIM PERSONAL TIES TO LIBERIA. I AM PLEASED TO BE ASSIGNED TO A COUNTRY WHOSE LONG HISTORY AND CULTURE ARE SO INTRICATELY INTERWOVEN WITH OUR OWN HISTORY. NOT ONLY IS LIBERIA AFRICA'S OLDEST REPUBLIC, IT IS ALSO ONE OF THE LEADING VOICES IN AFRICAN COUNCILS. IT WAS A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IT IS A COUNTRY WITH A STATURE FAR GREATER THAN ITS GEOGRAPHICAL SIZE.

7. QUOTE. MR. PRESIDENT, WITH YOUR PERMISSION AND COOPERATION I PLAN TO EXPLORE THE UNTAPPED AREAS OF COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL FOR OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I SHALL STRIVE TO DEVELOP THE HUMAN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES. I SHALL SPARE NO EFFORT IN THESE TASKS, AND I HOPE TO BENEFIT NOT ONLY FROM YOUR CUSTOMARY CONCERN BUT ALSO FROM THE SUPPORT OF YOUR DISTINGUISHED STAFF.

8. QUOTE. MR. PRESIDENT, PLEASE PERMIT A PERSONAL REFERENCE. YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE FIRST MET IN FEBRUARY OF 1970 ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF SECRETARY ROGERS. OUR NEXT MEETING TOOK PLACE WHEN LIBERIA WAS MOURNING THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT TUBMAN. AND FINALLY I HAD OCCASION TO GREET YOU IN DAR ES SALAAM LAST YEAR WHEN YOU MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO TANZANIA. I HAVE LONG ADMIRERD FROM AFAR YOUR STEADY AND IMAGINATIVE LEADERSHIP. YOU ARE WELL-KNOWN TO ME AND THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS. IT IS A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE TO NOW COME TO THE PLACE WHERE WE CAN WORK CLOSER TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMON GOALS.

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9. QUOTE. IN CONCLUSION, PERMIT ME, MR. PRESIDENT, TO PRESENT TO YOU THE LETTERS BY WHICH YOUR FRIEND, GERALD FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACCREDITS ME TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY. END QUOTE. ROBINSON

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